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**Royston**  
**Urban District Council**

**Report of the Medical Officer  
of Health for the year 1935.**

**Public Health Officials**

*Medical Officer of Health :*

**NORMAN MACFADYEN, M.B., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,**  
**123, Norton Way, Letchworth.**

*Sanitary Inspector :*

**S. M. JACKSON.**

**H. F. J. BANHAM,**

*Clerk,*

**Council Offices, Royston.**

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July  
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# ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT.

## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1935

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Gentlemen,

The Annual Report is a summary of the conditions affecting the health, as well as the statistics of the District, drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

### STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres) 1626

Residential Population (Registrar General's figure) 3821

Number of inhabited houses 1153 (end of 1935)

Rateable value £23,254

Sum represented by a penny rate £87 2s. 11d.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

		M.	F.	Total	
Births.	Legitimate	18	15	34	Birth-rate 8.
	Illegitimate	1	0		

Deaths. M. 21. F. 21. Total 42. Death-rate 10.9

Deaths of Infants under One Year.

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	0	0	0
Illegitimate	0	0	

Infant-Mortality rate (per 1000 births)

M. 0.	F. 0.	Total 0.
M.	F.	Total

Still-Births.	Legitimate	0	1	1	Still-Birth-rate .26
	Illegitimate	0	0		

For purposes of comparison the rate for England and Wales are given.

	Royston Urban District	Eng. & Wales
Birth-rate	8	14.7
Death-rate	10.9	11.7
Infant Mortality rate	0	57.0
Still-birth rate	.26	0.62

The rates in Royston compare favourably with those of the County in general except in the case of the very low birth rate. This is really the most important figure of all, and it will soon become a deciding factor in our National Life if the birth-rate does not improve. It is particularly regrettable in a place like Royston, where the conditions for bringing up a healthy, happy family, are in most cases present.

The chief causes of death have been :—Tuberculosis 3, Malignant disease 7, Disease of the Heart and Arteries 20, Respiratory Disease 4

There was no death from whooping-cough, Measles, Infantile Diarrhoea or other infectious disease.

No woman died in child-birth nor was there any fatal case of puerperal sepsis,

## PREVALENCE and CONTROL of INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

One case of Scarlet Fever and one of puerperal fever were notified during the year. The record for infectious disease generally has been excellent. Arrangements have now been made for infectious cases to be taken to the Hitchin Rural and Letchworth Urban Hospital. This is a modern well-built Hospital in a healthy situation. Small-pox cases if they occur can be removed to the Hospital at Langley which now belongs to the county. The Isolation Hospital possesses a Motor Ambulance. The Council pays for the examination of swabs and the provision of anti-toxin if necessary.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers comprise :—

One Medical Officer of Health (part time)

One Sanitary Inspector, who also acts as Surveyor

The Sanitary Inspector is designated officer under the Housing Acts, and also carries out the Inspection of Meat, being a duly qualified Meat Inspector.

## MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

There were 166 children examined during the year and the following defects were found.

Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	...	57
Defective Teeth ...	...	19
Defective Vision ...	...	12

The children from the Shaftesbury Homes keep up the number examined in the schools. These children have their defects remedied, and there is an improvement in the others. We lost our School Nurse who had worked hard to better the health of the Royston children. Cases requiring operation and surgical and medical attention are dealt with at the Royston General Hospital. This is a good Hospital run on modern methods.

It will be seen by the report of the newly appointed Sanitary Inspector that he has been working hard since taking up his duties. A preliminary survey of overcrowded houses shows that there are 10 cases which will have to be dealt with.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,  
NORMAN MACFADYEN, M.B., D.P.H., M.O.H.

## TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications of Tuberculosis for the year 1935

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 .. .. .								
5 .. .. .								
10 .. .. .								
15 .. .. .								
20 .. .. .		1						
25 .. .. .								
35 .. .. .								
45 .. .. .								
55 .. .. .								
65 and upwards ..	1							
Totals .. ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector for 1935.

### WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the district is supplied with water from the chalk by the Royston Water Company.

### SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE

21 houses have been connected to the Council's sewers. 1 house has been drained into a cesspool, the Council's sewer not being available. A short length of sewer has been relaid at a greater depth to allow of the drainage of a row of cottages thereto.



## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Constant endeavour is made to replace old insanitary types of hopper closets by wash-down pedestal closets and to provide hopper flushing cisterns thereto. 9 new water closets have been built during the year. 2 earth closets have been converted into water closets. 8 earth closets have been abolished. 19 hopper closets have been replaced by wash-down pedestals. 54 water closets have been provided with flushing cisterns with water laid on thereto. 51 water closets have been provided with light and ventilation. 10 water closets have been repaired.

## REFUSE REMOVAL & DISPOSAL

Towards the end of the year the system of refuse collection was re-organised, and the practice of requiring householders to place receptacles on or near the roadway ready for removal was discontinued and the Council's staff now collect the refuse from the premises where the receptacle is kept.

House refuse is removed weekly except in an outlying portion of the district which was added to the area of the Council by the Hertford County Review Order 1934, from the cottages in this area a monthly collection of incombustible refuse has been commenced.

The method of disposal of refuse at the Sewage Farm Tip was also improved, and a system of controlled tipping commenced, a portion of the ditch running through the site being piped in and covered over to afford access to the area of land to be used for the purpose.

A great deal of labour was expended in thoroughly covering over the existing banks of tins and in crushing and disposing of the large heap of scrap iron and tins which had accumulated at the Tip.

Following this, an intensive campaign of poisoning was carried out to rid the site of rats.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

96 houses were inspected under the Housing Acts.

69 informal notices were served.

4 Statutory notices were served.

67 notices were complied with.

## PREMISES & OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS & REGULATIONS

There are no offensive Trades.

There are no underground sleeping rooms.

## FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS

There are no factories in the district where more than 40 people are employed.

The workshops in the district are as follows—Bakehouses 3, Bootmakers 5, Bicycle makers 3, Builders 3, Coachbuilders 1, Dress-makers 3, Furniture makers 3, Masons 2, Plumbers 3, Photographers 1, Saddlers 2, Smiths 3, Tailors 4, Watchmakers 2, Wheelwrights 1, Cabinet makers and upholsterers 2. These premises are kept under observation by the Sanitary Inspector.

## HOUSING

A great deal of time has been devoted to housing by the Sanitary Inspector during 1935. The Sanitary Inspector also acts as Surveyor

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	10
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts	
(1) By the Local authority	0
(2) By other bodies of persons	0

### 1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.*

(1)a Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	197
b Number of inspections made for that purpose ... ..	321
(2)a Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 a above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 ... ..	96
b Number of inspections made for that purpose ... ..	132
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	1
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	88

### 2. *Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	136
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### 3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year.*

#### A.—Proceedings under section 17, 18 and 23 of Housing Act, 1930:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	75
(2) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners ... ..	19
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	0

#### B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	4
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners ... ..	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	0

#### C.—Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act 1930:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	0

#### D.—Proceedings under Section 20 Closing Orders made

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. ..	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. ..	0

## SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

The Council are dealing with the following 7 areas as Slum Clearance Areas under the Housing Act, 1930 comprising a total of 39 houses to be demolished.

No. 1 or London Road Clearance Area	14 houses
No. 2 or Normans Lane	... 6 houses
No. 3 or Market Hill	... 3 houses
No. 4 or The Mount	... 4 houses
No. 5 or George Lane	... 2 houses
No. 6 or Melbourn Street (South)	... 4 houses
No. 7 or Melbourn Street (North)	... 6 houses

During the year a public inquiry was held by the Minister of Health into two of the Clearance Area Orders against which objections were made. These two areas were No. 1 or London Road Clearance Area and No. 4 or The Mount Clearance Area. These Orders were confirmed by the Minister of Health. The remaining five Clearance Orders against which no objections were made were also confirmed by the Minister.

The Council have considered the provision of new houses to accommodate the people to be displaced by the demolition of houses in Clearance Areas, and land has been acquired for a housing site and plans prepared for 46 new houses of the necessary types.

## HOUSING ACT, 1935—OVERCROWDING

The Overcrowding survey required by the above act was not commenced by the end of 1935. It is anticipated that only a small number of houses will prove to be overcrowded when the survey is made.

## INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MILK SUPPLY

There are three milk producers in the district, the remainder of the Dairymen obtaining their milk supplies from outside the area.

There is no Graded Milk produced in the district.

There has been no refusal or revocation of registration of retailers.

### MEAT & OTHER FOODS

The Sanitary Inspector acts as Meat Inspector and inspection of meat and other food supplies is carried out systematically and examination of carcasses at the time of slaughter is carried out.

No marking under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924 is in force

The humane killer is used for slaughtering in accordance with regulations adopted by the Council.

There is no arrangement for the disposal of condemned meat, and the practice is to render the meat unsaleable for human food after which it is buried on the land.

There are no public slaughterhouses in the area.

289 visits were made at the three private slaughterhouses in the district and the following carcasses were examined—Beasts 241, Sheep 721, Pigs 478. Meat condemned as unfit for food—1 forequarter of Beef, 54lbs. Beef, 1 Beast's head and tongue, 4 pairs beasts lungs, 6lb. Mutton. Other food condemned 2 6lb. tins of Corned Beef.



All the premises used for the preparation of human food are in a satisfactory state.

There have been no cases of food poisoning in the area.

The Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act 1928 is administered by the County Council.

## Surveyor's and Sanitary Inspector's Report for the Year Ending 31st December 1935.

Surveyor's Office,  
Town Hall,  
Royston, Herts.

15th, April, 1936.

### NEW STREETS & BUILDINGS

Total number of Plans approved	..	..	..	33
Plans approved for New Houses	..	..	..	18
Plans approved for other buildings	..	..	..	15
New Houses completed—				
By Local Authority under Housing Acts	..	..	..	0
By Private Enterprise	.	..	..	10
Other Buildings completed	..	..	..	14
Drains laid to above	..	..	yards	509
Gullies laid to above	..	..	..	26
Vent Shafts fixed	..	..	..	18
Inspection Chambers built	..	..	..	34
Water Closets	..	..	..	24
Pail Privies	..	..	..	0
Privies	..	..	..	0
Ashbins	..	..	..	9
Ashpits	..	..	..	0
Cesspools	..	..	..	1
Intercepting Traps	..	..	..	12
Urinals	..	..	..	1

### HOUSING ACTS & PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, ETC.

Houses Inspected. Housing Acts	..	..	..	96
Clearance Orders confirmed by Minister of Health	..	..	..	7
Notices served under Section 19 Housing Act 1930	..	..	..	0
Demolition Orders made	..	..	..	0
Houses demolished	..	..	..	0
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	69
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	4
Notices complied with	..	..	..	67
Legal Proceedings taken	..	..	..	0
Houses provided with improved light	..	..	..	15
"    "    "    "    ventilation	..	..	..	25

House roofs renewed or repaired	..	..	..	21
„ windows repaired	..	..	..	6
„ chimneys repaired	..	..	..	1
„ ceilings renewed or repaired	..	..	..	3
„ floors repaired	..	..	..	4
„ rain water gutters repaired	..	..	..	8
„ walls pointed or plastered	..	..	..	13
Wall plaster repaired	..	..	..	10
Overcrowding abated	..	..	..	0
Houses connected to sewer	..	..	..	12
Houses re-drained	..	..	..	19
New drains laid	..	..	yards 382	
Gullies fixed	..	..	..	29
Intercepting Traps fixed	..	..	..	5
Sinks connected to foul drains	..	..	..	19
New vent shafts fixed	..	..	..	5
Inspection chambers built	..	..	..	1
„ „ repaired	..	..	..	3
Water service pipes repaired	..	..	..	10
Dampness remedied	..	..	..	21
Downspouts disconnected, renewed or repaired	..	..	..	6
Yards paved or repaired	..	..	..	13
Water closets repaired	..	..	..	10
Nuisances abated from animals improperly kept	..	..	..	2
Drains relaid or repaired	..	..	..	10
New sinks fixed	..	..	..	36
Water laid on to sinks	..	..	..	37
Sink waste pipes fixed	..	..	..	35
„ „ „ disconnected	..	..	..	19
Blocked drains cleansed	..	..	..	19
Earth closets abolished	..	..	..	8
New water closets fixed	..	..	..	9
Earth closets converted into water closets	..	..	..	2
Flushing cisterns provided to water closets	..	..	..	54
Windows provided in water closets for light and ventilation	..	..	..	51
Hopper closets replaced with wash down pedestals	..	..	..	19
Water closet floors repaved	..	..	..	2
Accummulations of rubbish and filth removed	..	..	..	5
Houses disinfected—Scarlet fever	1			
„ Tuberculosis	1			
„ Other diseases	1			3
Slaughterhouse Inspections	..	..	..	289
Bakehouses inspected	..	..	..	16
Bakehouses limewashed	..	..	..	2
„ cleansed and painted	..	..	..	1
„ defective wall plaster repaired	..	..	..	1
Dairies and milkshops inspected	..	..	..	15
Drain removed from inside Dairy	..	..	..	1
Dairies cleansed and limewashed	..	..	..	3
Workshops inspected	..	..	..	22
Workshops cleansed and limewashed	..	..	..	2

S. M. JACKSON,

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1935 for  
the URBAN DISTRICT OF ROYSTON on the administration of the Factory  
and Workshop Act 1901, in connection with  
**Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces & Homework.**

**1.—INSPECTION.**

*Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.*

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	2	—	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries ... ..)	38	1	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' Premises ... ..)	—	—	—
Total ... ..	40	1	—

**2.—DEFECTS FOUND.**

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:*</i>				
Want of ventilation ... ..				
Want of cleanliness ... ..	5	5		
Overcrowding ... ..				
Want of drainage of floors ... ..				
Other nuisances ... ..	1	1		
Sanitary Accommodation				
{ insufficient ... ..				
{ unsuitable or defective ... ..				
{ not separate for sexes ... ..				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ... ..				
Other offences ... ..				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Work- shops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total ... ..	6	6	—	—

\*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES. Section 108.

NATURE OF WORK. (1)	Instances (2)	Notices served. (3)	Prose- cu- tions. (4)
Wearing Apparel—			
Making, &c. ... ..	Nil.		
Cleaning and washing ... ..			
Household linen ... ..			
Lace, lace Curtains and nets ... ..			
Curtains and furniture hangings ... ..			
Furniture and upholstery ... ..			
Electro-plate ... ..			
File making ... ..			
Brass and brass articles ... ..			
Fur pulling ... ..			
Cables and chains ... ..			
Anchors and grapnels ... ..			
Cart gear ... ..			
Locks, latches and keys ... ..			
Umbrellas, &c. ... ..			
Artificial Flowers ... ..			
Nets, other than wire nets ... ..			
Tents ... ..			
Sacks ... ..			
Racquet and tennis balls ... ..			
Paper, etc., boxes, paper bags ... ..			
Brush making ... ..			
Pea picking ... ..			
Feather sorting ... ..			
Carding, &c., of buttons, &c. ... ..			
Stuffed toys ... ..			
Basket making ... ..			
Chocolates and sweetmeats ... ..			
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, &c. ... ..			
Textile weaving ... ..			
Lampshades ... ..			
TOTAL ... ..	0	0	0

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

NORMAN MACFADYEN,

*Medical Officer of Health.*









